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Current, September 27, 2010

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

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SEPT. 27, 2010

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ISSUE 1322

From Jilin to St. Louis

Chinese dance troupe performs at the Touhill

By Caitlin E. L. Myles

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The Current

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Statshot

The UNDERCURRENT by Riki Tanaka



"I think that it's acceptable that the faculty don't have to abide by the same rules as the rest of us. Their position allows them certain benefits."

Brianna Clampitt
English
Sophomore



"I think parking should be the same for everyone. It makes no sense for one group to get special treatment, even if it is the faculty."

Samer Abu Amer
Pre-Med
Sophomore

"What do you think about faculty not being exempt from parking tickets?"



"I think it's unfair because students and teachers both come here to teach and learn so we should also be treated equally."

Captoria Pointer
Biology
Freshman



"Parking is something everyone with a vehicle deals with. Tickets should apply to everyone. Students already pay a lot of money, so why should they be treated differently?"

Thomas McGeehon
Information Systems
Junior

Comments from the WEB

on "Free speech can go too far" issue 1320

So a person (dhimmi) would have the right to practice their own religion. Then of their own opinion, they decide to destroy a symbol of the Islam religion. "These people, called dhimmi (for "protected people"), are freely allowed to practice their own religions within a Muslim country." And that expression of the individuals opinion would endanger anyone other than himself (not that he should be in danger either). Ok, so it pissed someone off that he destroyed a sacred text (which we have millions of copies of). So you are saying that the peaceful Muslims would seek harm on someone else? If it weren't for our media making a story where there wasn't one to begin with, how would someone from another town, let alone another country even know (or care) about what he chose to do? So our soldiers are now hostage to the actions of American citizens who choose to express some right? BTW – I think the act was asinine.

-Ron Owings

on "No justice for police brutality victims" issue 1319

Cops – the only profession guilty (and hopefully not proven innocent).

-Ryan C

VERBATIM



"There's no good emoticon for testifying before Congress. This'll have to do: 8^(\$). The \$ represents the value of the truth I'll be spewing."

– **STEPHEN COLBERT**, TWITTERING ABOUT TESTIFYING BEFORE A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

"We're still in a recession ... We're not gonna be out of it for a while, but we will get out of it."

– **WARREN BUFFETT**, ON THE U.S. ECONOMY



"You've interviewed many, many people, and I assumed that you would know the difference between a character and a real person, so ... but I apologize."

– **JUAQUIN PHEONIX**, TO DAVE LETTERMAN

WEATHER

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News



Charles Schmitz in his old office.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

University of Missouri-St. Louis' farewell to the legendary dean

► **MINHO JUNG**
Staff Writer

Charles Schmitz retired as dean of the College of Education after leading the college for 14 years. "It is a very mixed feeling," Charles D. Schmitz, Dean Emeritus of College of Education, said.

Schmitz came to University of Missouri-St. Louis from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he served as dean and professor. Since Schmitz became dean of the College of Education in 1996, he has brought a revolutionary transition to UM-St. Louis in terms of uplifting the school to the highly technology-advanced institution. "When I became dean in 1996, there was no fiber optics cable on south campus. Think about that. There was no way to E-mail or surf the web. So, when I came here, I had two visions to accomplish. One of them was constructing Technology and Learning Center," Schmitz said. Since his decision was made, he began to raise funding for the construction of the college's E. Desmond Lee Technology and Learning Center which opened in April 2000.

"Creating the college education for 21st century was what I had in mind. When I became dean of College of Education in July, I said to the faculty members that everyone should have your own E-mail account by October," Schmitz said. Because of his effort and contribution to transforming UM-St. Louis to a technology-rich institution, he even got the nickname "technology dean." "Now, technology became a center piece of what we do here," Schmitz said.

Schmitz also hired more than 80 percent of the faculty members in the education department during his term. "If you ask me what is the most proud achievement I have made, that should be it, and that was the second vision that I tried to accomplish: people," Schmitz said. With those new faculty members he hired, he also contributed to transforming the College of Education into a College of Education with four distinct and productive divisions. "People do the work. Therefore, it is really important to hire qualified people and give them a technology to use as a tool," Schmitz said.

One of the notable contributions he

made was that he has built more than 200 community partnerships. "By tying the professors to the community, we can multiply the impact of what we are doing. In addition to the financial benefits we can expect from it," Schmitz said.

"My next plan after my retirement is to focus more on the project about successful marriage, which took me and my wife for a long time, traveling around the world to interview a lot of couples having a successful marriage life," Schmitz said. Schmitz has been married to his wife, Liz, for 44 years. They have published three books on the secrets to a successful marriage. "Eventually, I would like to make a documentary about it," Schmitz said.

Schmitz left behind big shoes to fill after he made significant breakthroughs throughout his service in UM-St. Louis. Kathleen Haywood, associate dean of graduate education, will serve as interim dean. "I want students to realize what they can accomplish by utilizing what UM-St. Louis offers to them. I also believe my successor will bring the school to the next level. I will keep in touch" Schmitz said.

LOCAL NEWS

Parkway increases tax rate

Parkway's Board of Education increased the residential tax rate by 16 cents, from \$3.41 to \$3.57 per \$100 assessed value for the 2010-11 school year. The change compensates for revenue losses stemming from when the 2009 rate was set using preliminary assessment information, rather than the final assessment figures. Parkway officials blamed the situation on the Missouri Legislature, which passed bill SB711. The bill required school districts to set their rates before final assessment results were available from St. Louis County. **Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

Normandy forum addresses school safety

A forum on school safety led by the Normandy School District this week has prompted parents and school officials to work together to prevent future problems. The forum, at Lucas Crossing Elementary School, was held in response to a shooting across the street from Normandy High School on Sept. 8 that injured a 10th grader. It was among a spate of conflicts recently between students from Hillsdale and Wellston. None of the problems has taken place on school property. Panelists at the forum agreed that most conflict in and outside of schools originate off campus. "The school will not serve as the scapegoat, because we are not," said Superintendent Stanton Lawrence. "If we are going to make progress, it is going to take a cooperative, coordinated community to resolve these issues." Carmen Ward, a parent who had been critical of the district's response, said she was encouraged by the forum. **Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

Webster Groves City sets tax rates

The Webster Groves City Council approved a bill Tuesday night to increase some property tax levies for 2010. The collective rate for the general, streets, debt service and police and fire pension funds is 87.7 cents per \$100 in assessed value for residential, 87.8 cents for commercial and 98.4 cents for personal property. Compared with last year, the residential and commercial rates increased 1.4 cents and 5.5 cents, respectively, while the personal property rate is unchanged. **Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

Two women accused of taking cash from ATM Solutions heist

The investigation into the ATM Solutions robbery took a new turn this week when federal authorities accused two local women of taking cash from the heist and hiding it in an Atlanta-area storage facility. Latunya Wright, 36, and Keisha Welch, 29, were charged with knowingly transporting stolen currency. Wright was arrested Tuesday, and Welch was arrested Wednesday. On Aug. 2, four heavily armed, masked men forced their way into ATM Solutions, on Grandel Square, overpowered two guards, looted millions from a vault and fled in an armored company van. **Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

Chancellor George gives State of the University Address

► **RYAN KRULL**
Staff Writer

Chancellor Tom George delivered the annual State of the University Address to a mostly full J.C. Penny Auditorium on September 22. George summarized his 20 minute address in a single line when he said, "This is a good news speech, despite some budget challenges because there is so much good news at the University of Missouri-St. Louis."

Before the address Glen Cope, the provost and vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, recognized several members of UM-St. Louis' faculty and staff. The 12 2009-2010 employees of the month as well as the faculty and staff who have reached their 25th year of service with the university were among those recognized. There were also six recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence and Amy Zanne, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology, received the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award.

"I always take such pride in seeing all the award winners coming across the stage and it's awesome to hear all the great accomplishments of our faculty and staff," Chancellor George said. "This is

what helps make the university great." With that, George began giving his report on the condition of the university as well as articulating his agenda for the upcoming year.

George spoke of Missouri's Higher Education Summit held last August, in which the chancellors of all four University of Missouri campuses met with Governor Nixon. The Governor encouraged all schools within the University of Missouri system to focus on, among other things, improving degree attainment and developing a sustainable multi-year funding model. "This is very much a pro-higher education government," George said in reference to the Nixon administration in Jefferson City. George noted that with the projected stoppage of Federal stimulus money there is an expected \$400 million to \$500 million funding gap for fiscal year 2012.

George said that the university will "look for revenue sources to help ourselves." He forecasted a tuition increase that could be as steep as eight percent. The funding issues were the only negative areas in a predominately optimistic speech. According to the Chancellor, UM-St. Louis has record high enrollment this semester, up three

percent from last year. The number of credit hours being taken campus wide has increased at a rate faster than enrollment, signaling a trend among UM-St. Louis students to take a heavy course load.

The Chancellor attributed the increased enrollment in part to the positive press the university has enjoyed as of late. He held up a copy of that day's St. Louis Post Dispatch; a front page headline read, "UMSL to offer full rides to fight brain drain." This headline was in reference to a recently announced program in which UM-St. Louis and Emerson Electric Company will award four years of free tuition to local first generation college students who want to study in the science, technology, engineering or mathematic disciplines.

George also emphasized how the university has been a great beneficiary of news magazines such as US News and World Reports conducting their college ratings by program. He highlighted the department of criminology and criminal justice being ranked fourth in the nation as an example.

The address was followed by "Three Student Stories," a video featuring senior nursing student Kyle Wogtech, senior, physics, Meredith Ordway and four sibling UM-St. Louis students who perform classical music together as the Dickson String Quartet.

A reception, including a meet and greet with the chancellor, was held afterwards in the J.C. Penny Building lobby.



Chancellor Thomas F. George presents the 2010 chancellor's award for excellence

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

USA NEWS

U.S. can not find proof of payment for Abu Ghraib abuses

Fending off demands that he resign over the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told Congress he had found a legal way to compensate Iraqi detainees who suffered "grievous and brutal abuse and cruelty at the hands of a few members of the United States armed forces." "It's the right thing to do," Rumsfeld declared in 2004. "And it is my intention to see that we do."

-Via The Associated Press

One student dead, four hurt at party near N.J. university

A man who was denied access to a private party at an apartment near Seton Hall University left and returned with a handgun, then fatally shot a student and wounded four people, sending screaming partygoers rushing out the door and climbing out windows. Seton Hall student Jessica Moore, 19, died from her injuries Saturday afternoon, said Katherine Carter, a spokeswoman for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Moore had been hospitalized in critical condition after the shooting just before 12:20 a.m. The other four victims were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries and one has been released, said East Orange Police Sgt. Andrew Di Elmo.

-Via USA Today

Air Force launches surveillance satellite from California

A U.S. space surveillance satellite has been launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on the central California coast. The base said in a news release that a Minotaur 4 rocket carrying the Space Based Space Surveillance satellite blasted off at 9:41 p.m. Saturday and headed toward orbit. The satellite was designed to detect and monitor debris, satellites and other space objects that could be a threat to national security, communications and weather satellites. Monitoring from space avoids the limitations that ground observing systems experience due to weather, the atmosphere and time of day. The satellite will be operated from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

-Via The Associated Press

Unruly passenger forces Delta flight's return to Seattle

A Delta spokeswoman says an unruly passenger on a flight bound for Amsterdam forced pilots to return the plane to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport shortly after take-off. Airline spokeswoman Leslie Parker says Flight 224 left the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport just after 6 p.m. Saturday. About 30 minutes later, she says, a passenger disturbance prompted pilots to return to Seattle. The plane landed safely at 7:27 p.m. No one was injured. Parker did not comment on the details of the disturbance. She says the flight was canceled, and another flight, specifically for the Amsterdam-bound passengers, will depart Sunday. A Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman told The Seattle Times that the disruptive passenger was taken to a local medical facility.

-Via USA Today

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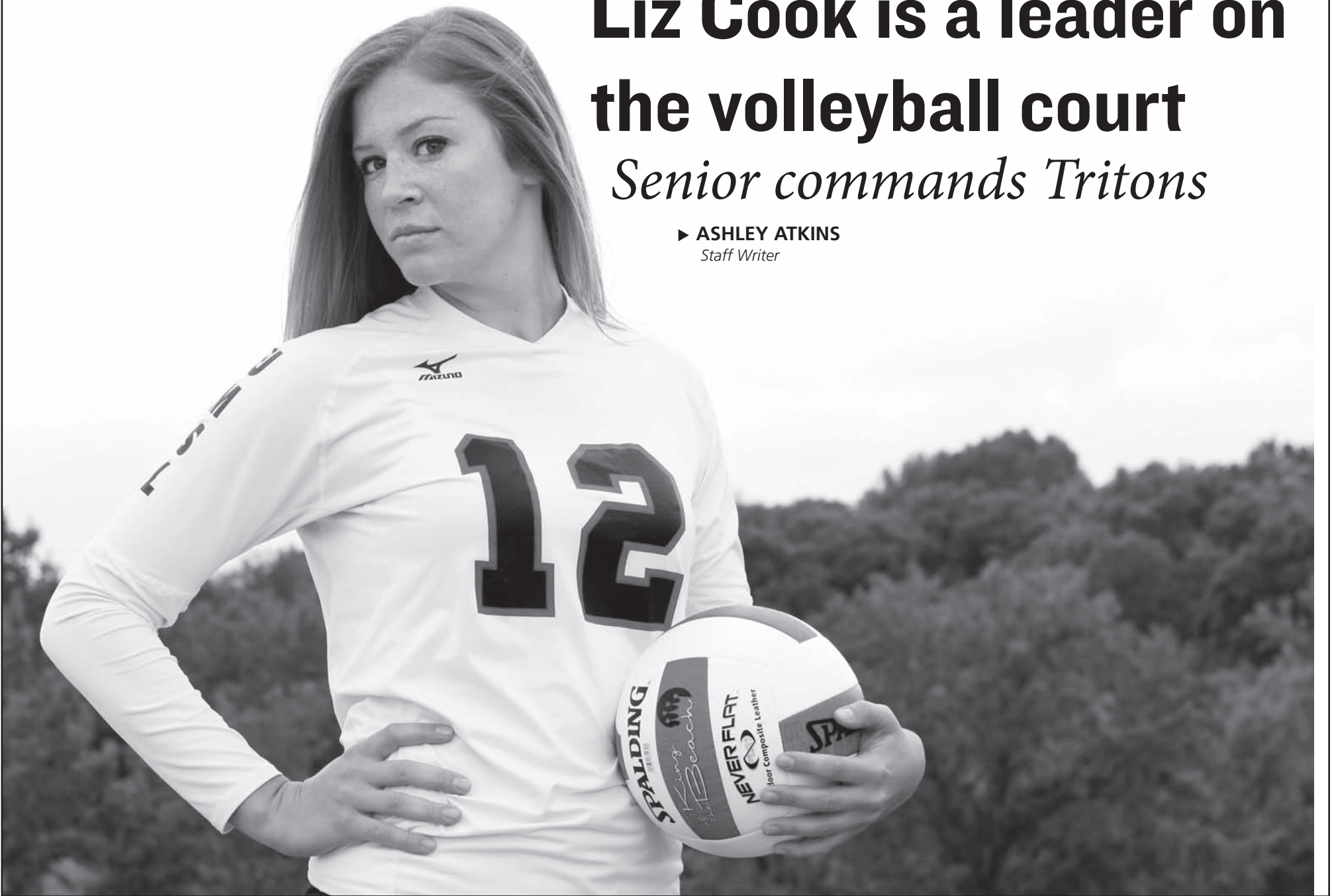
Read
The
Current

Sports

Liz Cook is a leader on the volleyball court

Senior commands Tritons

► ASHLEY ATKINS
Staff Writer



Liz Cook, senior, education, stands with her volleyball.

SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Liz Cook, senior, education, is currently working on winning conference and achieving a higher ranking with the Tritons.

Cook ranks tenth in University of Missouri-St. Louis history with 1,000 kills. She is the first in UM-St. Louis volleyball history to earn Great Lakes Valley Conference player of the week honors.

"I wanted to go to a big city, I wanted to go to a big school," Cook said. "I really liked the coach here and wanted to go some place close to home."

Cook is from Kansas City, Missouri where she made a name for herself at Archbishop O'Hara, playing volleyball for four years straight, two of those years as team captain. During those years, she divided her existence between her high school team and the KC Power Club.

"More college coaches look at club teams for recruiting, rather than your high school team because there is better competition ... higher caliber play," Cook said.

Cook mentioned she had no intentions of playing volley-

ball. "I actually did not get started playing volleyball until seventh grade," Cook said. "I was a soccer player and my friend and I thought it would be funny to try out for the volleyball team. From then on, I quit soccer and stuck with volleyball."

"My brother, who always wanted to play in college, but never got the chance, pushed me to take advantage of my talents," Cook said. She has remained a driving force since, impressing the athletic department from the start as a Triton freshman, practicing with the team everyday except Sundays during the season and every other day in off-season. "She works really hard," Faith Boone, assistant athletic trainer, said. "She took time out of the summer between her freshman and sophomore year in college to do jump training back in Kansas City in order to make herself a better hitter."

"She is not a complainer, she just does what needs to get done and gets it done," Boone said. "I expect my players to be accountable and to do what is expected of them for the betterment of the team," Trent Jones, head volleyball coach, said. "Liz Cook has one of the best work ethics on our team. She

comes in everyday and does what she is asked, no questions asked."

Liz Cook has been put in that position where every positive thing she does affects her team equally, taking on a leadership role. "She is a senior and has been in that role in the past. She handles it like a mature player, just like a senior should," Sally Cook, Liz Cook's mother, said.

"She makes the team better by being dependable," Breanna Michelle Pratl, defensive specialist, senior, said.

"Her hard work rubs off on her teammates and when we see her working hard we work hard," Kayla Kinzinger, team member, senior, elementary education, said.

As far as her thoughts on the Black Out game last Friday, she was impressed. "I was pleasantly surprised so many people came out to support us," Cook said. "I hope more people will continue to turn out."

After college graduation, Cook plans to focus on her goal of becoming a middle school math teacher and maybe someday a volleyball coach.

SPORTS COLUMN

Does St. Louis need the Rams?

To loyal St. Louis Rams fans, congratulations on another bad start to the season. The Rams are 0-2 to start their 2010 campaign headed into Sunday's game against the Redskins. There is a question, though, that needs to be answered: What would St. Louis sports be without the constant failure and disappointment of the Rams?

It seems like every season for the often last place National Football League team is supposed to be better than the last. But over the past two or three years the St. Louis professional football team has failed its fans, or lack thereof, and ticket holders. Let us first look at their record over the past two seasons. The Rams have only won a single game in their last 18 games heading into Sunday's matchup between the Washington Redskins.

If the Rams win against the Redskins that would be a whopping two wins in two seasons.

In their defense, the Rams are a young team with a young, rookie quarterback. Sam Bradford out of the University of Oklahoma is supposed to lead the team under center and make an immediate impact. So far, the Rams offense has at best been poor.

Most St. Louis sports fans may recall the Rams Super Bowl victory in 2000. Then the Rams had a great quarterback, Kurt Warner, who was later traded to the Arizona Cardinals another former St. Louis football team. They had great offensive weapons such as wide receivers Tory Holt, Isaac Bruce, the explosive Az-Ahir Hakim and future National Football League hall of fame running back Marshall Faulk. The former "Greatest Show on Turf," though,



has not had anywhere near a decent offensive attack since these players left the Rams for either better teams or retirement.

The Rams owe it to their fans to put out a winning and competitive product. Every game for the past two plus seasons, fans that pay the high price of admission end up leaving the stadium booing and jeering their lackluster performance.

Watching the Rams is like a sort of torture. In the beginning of every season there is a sort of optimism. But that excitement is soon gone after three interceptions by the first string quarterback, two fumbles by running backs, and only three touchdowns in two games.

Maybe the Rams can somehow turn the season around. If they do, then this opinion piece is null and void. But from the looks of their lack of offensive firepower and a coaching staff that is poorly managed, the Rams would be lucky to win any games this season.

Maybe a change in scenery, or a move back to Los Angeles where the franchise began, would help the team.

Michael Frederick is Sports Editor for The Current

Matt Zeller's next battle

Iraq veteran tries out for Triton Baseball

► RYAN KRULL
Staff Writer

Since graduating from high school six years ago, Matt Zeller has joined the military, traveled the world as part of an elite recon unit and been wounded in Iraq. Now he just wants to play ball.

Zeller, who is 25, is trying out as a walk on for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' baseball team. Right now he does not know if he will be on the Triton's roster when the season starts in February.

After graduating from St. John Vianney High School in 2004, Zeller decided to delay continuing his education and instead join the armed forces.

"Knowing myself, I knew I wasn't ready for college," Zeller said. "Not that I wasn't smart enough, but I would have been the drunk guy at every party every night. That's not what I wanted."

Zeller at first wanted to be a Navy Seal, but could not join the Navy because he had testicular cancer when he was 16. The Navy requires its recruits to be cancer free for five years before signing up. So Zeller joined the Army. An

Army recruit only has to have been cancer free for three and a half years.

Zeller eventually became part of the Echo 51st, an elite reconnaissance unit that works along side the Army Rangers. He trained with the Echo 51st in Germany before the unit was called to serve in Iraq in 2005.

In February of 2006, Zeller was helping his fellow soldiers free a truck stuck in a muddy road. A heavy chain snapped and struck Zeller in his face, breaking his nose, cheek, upper and lower jaw as well as knocking loose eight teeth. Zeller spent time recovering in Walter Reed Military Hospital before coming home for six months. He then returned to service in Germany.

In June of 2008, Zeller was medically discharged from the Army.

"UMSL wasn't really on my radar when I got back," Zeller said. "But one of the guys on my summer ball team told me I needed to come and try out for baseball here."

Zeller passed the initial tryouts and is playing fall ball with the team as one of three walk-ons who may or may not be on the final roster in the spring.

"I have a great deal of admiration for Matt," Coach Jim Brady, Tritons baseball coach, said. "I can relate to some of his experiences having been a veteran myself and yet I am so far removed from it at the same time because in Matt's case, to go through something like that is something none of us could even imagine. It's humbling to see someone go through that and come back and still want to play ball at this level."

Brady, who served in the Air Force in the 1970s, said that neither Zeller's military record nor the press he has received will impact his chances of making the final roster.

At UM-St. Louis Zeller is majoring in psychology. He has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and severe depression.

"Taking psych classes is helping me get over PTSD and depression," he said. "They have helped me better understand myself. They have absolutely helped, more than meds."

Zeller hopes to earn a Ph.D. in psychology and work at the Veterans Affairs hospital to help others with post-traumatic stress disorder.

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

MEN'S SOCCER

Friday, Oct. 1 vs. Missouri S&T at 7 p.m. on Don Dallas Field
Sunday, Oct. 3 vs. Drury University at 2:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Friday, Oct. 1 vs. Missouri S&T at 5 p.m. on Don Dallas Field
Sunday Oct. 3 vs. Drury at noon on Don Dallas Field

VOLLEYBALL

Friday, Oct. 1 (23)* vs. (8) Lewis University at 7 p.m. at Mark Twain Gym
Saturday, Oct. 2 (23) vs. Wisconsin Parkside at 3 p.m. at Mark Twain Gym

*Rankings are according to Division II American Volleyball Coaches Association Poll

A&E

'Shrek the Musical' brings the humor of hit film to Fox Theater

Some may think that a Broadway musical version of the movie "Shrek" is a bit of story overkill. But the stage version offers more fun than one might expect, thanks to a lively cast and some clever staging and puppetry.

Staying close to the source material, the children's book by William Steig and the popular movie version helps too. "Shrek The Musical," playing at the Fox Theater through September 26, keeps the original's comic spin on fairy tales and winking humor that works for both children and adults. The story is somewhat abridged, to make time for the song and dance numbers. Still, the added comedy bits and production numbers retain the tongue-in-cheek tone keep things entertaining.

The basics of the familiar story are there, with the anti-social ogre Shrek (Eric Petersen) driven out of his swamp home when a bunch of fairy-tale characters are exiled there by evil Lord Farquaad (David F. M. Vaughan). Encountering the talkative Donkey (Alan Mingo, Jr.) along the way, Shrek ends up on a quest to rescue Princess Fiona (played by Holly Ann Butler on Sunday night) from a dragon-guarded tower.

The play opens with a quick musical recap of Shrek's life, with his parents (Carrie Compere and Brian Gonzales) speaking lovingly to him before abandoning him at age eight. Young Shrek is played by Scarlett Diaz, until Petersen takes over as the grown-up Shrek. We get another musical recap of Princess Fiona's youth locked in a tower, with Madison Mullahey as young Fiona and Sarah Peek as teen Fiona, before the grown Princess Fiona takes over.

The excellent production has appeal for both adults and kids, small children were a big part of the audience at Sunday's performance.

Nearly all the show is kid-friendly, although the sequence with the very large dragon puppet might frighten some younger children.

The music is enjoyably pleasant, although there are no real show-stoppers. The dance numbers are often playfully tinged with Bob Fosse's choreography.

But the real thrill is the comic banter and the clever staging, with puppeteering playing a large and entertaining role.

A standout was the huge puppet dragon, operated by five puppeteers, who chases Donkey around the stage outside the tower. But the cleverest use of puppetry was for the highly-amusing Lord Farquaad character, with tall actor Vaughan playing short Farquaad mostly on his knees, with little foam legs bowing out and a trailing cape hiding half the actor's form. In some scenes, Vaughan did song-and-dance numbers behind a piece of scenery, with little puppet legs doing the dance part. Vaughan's energetic performance was impressive. The routines were among the most hilarious bits in the show.

See **SHREK**, page 9



COURTESY / BUNGIE

'Reach' a fitting end for the 'Halo' series

Parting is such sweet sorrow, as the old saying goes.

"Halo: Reach" marks the end of the Bungie-era of the "Halo" series. The series will continue, but unfortunately not under the tutelage of the master craftsmen at developer Bungie.

In many ways, it is a shame. Even for a nine-year-old series, there seems to be a few more stories left to tell. For gamers, however, 'tis a fond farewell: Bungie is at the top of their game. "Halo: Reach" is the best, most complete "Halo" game ever.

In order to experience the whole "Halo" saga, the proper order of games is: "Halo Wars," "Halo: Reach," "Halo: Combat Evolved," "Halo 2," "Halo 3: ODT," and finally "Halo 3." All are great games, and fully worthy of a play-through.

For "Halo: Reach," though, Bungie decided to end with the beginning.

The fall of the planet Reach is already well known.

It occurs before the events of the original Halo game and is mentioned and referenced more than a few times over the course of the series. In fact, there has been a Halo novel out since 2001 entitled "The Fall of Reach".

Even as players start the game, they are met with an image of the barren, scarred surface of the planet Reach, a grim reminder that in the end, the Covenant won and glassed the planet from orbit.

However, the story of Noble Team takes place before the planet is wiped clean of life. Noble6, is the newest member of one of the last teams of Spartans, Noble Team. For those new to the Halo series, Spartans are bio-engineered super soldiers that are humanity's last and best hope against the Covenant, an alien conglomerate hell-bent on our annihilation.

Bungie has been evolving its storytelling ever since the original "Halo." That same masterful storytelling is still

present in "Reach." Rest assured, nothing in this review will spoil the experience. It simply has to be experienced—it is that good.

Another hallmark of the "Halo" series is the multiplayer. "Halo 2" on the original Xbox ushered in the era of online gaming, and ever since then, the bar has been set higher and higher.

"Halo: Reach" is no slouch in the multiplayer department. Despite a seemingly-paltry eight maps, the multiplayer never seems to go stale. There are a plethora of modes to choose from: the classic Slayer and Team Slayer deathmatch modes; the new Headhunter mode, which involves an almost gambling-like collection and deposit of enemy kills; and the new Invasion mode, available both in an objective-based and Team Slayer flavor. The amazing Firefight mode from "ODST" returns, with a whole bevy of improvements. Players have the ability to

customize nearly every aspect of the mode, right down to which Covenant they want to spawn.

New Firefight "mods" like Gruntocalypse are a blast. Another "mod" pits players against each other in a pseudo-Firefight-meets-Slayer concept, with Elites and their AI-controlled allies attempting to take down the Spartans.

Perhaps the best part of Firefight is that the mode now has matchmaking, making it easier to jump in to a game.

Add in daily and weekly challenges, a persistent character from single player to online matchmaking, the endless possibilities of the map-tastic Forge World and you have what is definitely the best "Halo" game ever.

As for old sayings, one perhaps a little more appropriate for "Halo: Reach" is: "I hate to see you go, but I love to watch you leave". **A+** —Andrew Seal



Dead Confederate played at The Firebird on Sept. 21.

WILLIAM KYLE / THE CURRENT

Dead Confederate

A wall of sound

Dead Confederate, from Athens, Georgia, stopped in St. Louis supporting their sophomore effort, 'Sugar.' While the record is more restrained than their previous studio work, 'Wrecking Ball,' Dead Confederate's live show at The Firebird on September 21 was anything but. For a 10-song set and an encore, Dead Confederate unleashed a wall of sound, a type of '90s grunge rock that rattled the skulls of the avid, picture-taking crowd.

Dead Confederate employed the use of a fog machine and an extensive light show. The operator's technique of cutting the lights and pumping up the red, white or blue spotlights created amazing moments, as front man Hardy Morris and company swayed in and out of the fog, channeling early Nirvana.

Dead Confederate took the stage and immediately leapt into a cover of Officer May's "Smoking A Minor." The song opened with quiet, yet pulsing guitar and bass

before exploding into a torrent of razorblades.

The lights flashed up and displayed Dead Confederate in full gallop, kicking out machete chords like butterfly knives. It was clear the band came to bring the noise, heavy and rowdy, helmed by Morris' nasally and aggressive vocals.

"Mob Scene" and "In The Dark," both off 'Sugar,' showcased a set of refined psychedelic underpinnings as well as the great bearded guitarist, Walker Howie's, penchant for mind-searing licks.

"Get Out," from Dead Confederate's live EP, 'Dirty Ammo,' bled into existence with heady, guitar-pinned atmospherics and Billy Corgan-style vocals from Morris.

"Start Me Laughing" and "Wrecking Ball" offered more fuzzed-out, teeth-splintering bliss, mixed with sections of dreamy vocal work and lugubrious jamming.

Fan-favorite "Giving It All Away" brought the audience to a roiling boil with its clattering drum fills and melodi-

ous chorus. It stood tall as the highlight of the show. "The Rat," the single off 2008's 'Wrecking Ball,' alchemized the second half of Dead Confederate's set with its shimmering guitar, vocal epithets and accented drum crashes as the dominant of the two. The crowd cheered and headbanged along in clear agreement as Morris garbled out "Bang! Bang!"

"Heavy Petting" and "Tortured Artist Saint" rounded out the end of the set with more heavy, face-clobbering guitar, raucous drumming and screeched vocals.

At the end, Morris dropped to his knees and held a single, distorted note on his guitar as the rest of the band set their distortion and delay pedals and walked away.

This created an overdrawn cacophony, which, in true '90s fashion, lasted a bit long. Sadly, on most of the aforementioned songs, John Watkins' keys were a bit undermixed and out of place in terms of power and intensity.

After the long single-note sustain halted, Morris, the lone member of the band left on stage, invited the rest of Dead Confederate to encore with "Run From the Gun." While dutifully played, this stylistically atypical song lacked cohesion with the rest of the set.

Overall, Dead Confederate's show was a success. It was great to see the band grease up the stage and shatter skulls.

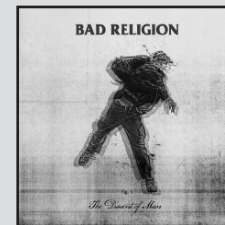
Dead Confederate rocked a bit too hard and forwent some of the newly found nuance employed on 'Sugar' and reverted to their tried and true, head-trauma psychedelic, '90s death-rock. Dead Confederate rocked the Bird beautifully but one wonders if audiences are not hungering for the band's raw power with a side of nuance, maybe a pickle skewer of melody, rather than a bowl full of teeth. **B** -William Kyle

LATEST + GREATEST

MUSIC

Bad Religion *The Dissent of Man*

The 31-year-old punk rock band returns with politically charged lyrics, charging guitars, raging single note riffs and band wide vocal support. Bad Religion can be dubbed the Rolling Stones of punk rock. "The Dissent Of Man" drops on September 28. Investigate Myspace.com/badreligion



Jimmy Eat World *Invented*

Rumor has it that "Invented," the sixth album from the emotive power-pop group Jimmy Eat World will be pared down compared to their previous efforts and will offer more acoustic forays. Make no mistake, this does not mean the band's characteristic break-up anthems will not be in the mix. Check out "Invented" when it releases on September 28 and in the meantime, click Myspace.com/jimmy-eatworld to preview a handful of tracks off of the upcoming record.



Guster *Easy Wonderful*

The ever-saccharine Guster returns after a longer than expected hiatus with 'Easy Wonderful' the follow up to 2006's 'Ganging Up On The Sun.' The band is expected to begin a tour a few days before the release of "Easy Wonderful" on October 5. Do not have enough Guster? Check out Myspace.com/guster to hear "Do You Love Me?"



MOVIES



The Social Network *At most theaters*

Director David Fincher's highly-anticipated, unflattering film about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, who tried to block its release. Stars Jesse Eisenberg and Andrew Garfield.



Let Me In *Tivoli only*

Shot-for-shot remake of the chilling Norwegian hit "Let the Right One In," one of the best vampire movies ever made. Re-made in English with young actors Kodi Smit-McPhee from "The Road" and Chloe Moretz from "Kick-Ass."



COURTESY / ROGUE

NEV SCHULMAN stars in "Catfish" is a riveting story of love, deception and grace within a labyrinth of online intrigue.

The other Facebook movie

In just a few weeks, the big budget "The Social Network" will hit theaters and the origins of Facebook will become common knowledge. But right now the under-the-radar documentary, "Catfish," is showing us just how strange a social networking utility site can get.

Catfish beings with New York City photographer Nev Schulman receiving a painting of one of his published photos in the mail from nine-year-old painting prodigy Abby Pierce. Though Abby lives in Michigan, she and Nev become friends via Facebook. With social media bringing together two artists a generation and half a country apart, Nev's roommates, who both are filmmakers and one is also Nev's brother, get the feeling the whole thing might be worth filming. And it is ever.

Nev eventually becomes Facebook friends with the rest of Abby's family, including her mom, brother and beautiful 19-year-old sister,

Megan. Nev becomes enamored with Megan, talking to her on the phone, texting and listening to her music. Nev and his two roommates eventually decide to drive up to Michigan and surprise the Pierces, filming the whole time of course. That is when everything gets weird.

In addition to the intriguing plot, Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost filmed the documentary brilliantly. The two men used a variety of mostly handheld cameras as well as a lot of new media in their film. Characters are introduced by Facebook profiles and throughout the film, iPhone text messages are inserted seamlessly and progress the story. Other clever uses of online media include the use of Google Earth displaying the distance between Nev and Abby and Google Maps graphics superimposed over the montage of the three men driving to Michigan. The usage of new media to advance a story that revolves around a new medium is truly

ly inspired.

"Catfish" is the story about the budding relationship between a guy and a girl but the implications will be thought provoking to anyone who puts even a modicum of his or her life online. But this is not an after school special or safe social networking 101. There is no overt moral message or preaching.

The film demonstrates how the very recently impossible is now quite probable. A guy living in New York City can fall in love with a girl in rural Michigan without ever meeting face to face. In one scene, Nev requests a song and Megan performs, records and e-mails it to him in less than 20 minutes. It is amazing what some ones and zeros can do with the help of just a little fiber optic cable. But in the midst of these amazements, "Catfish" begins to question their validity, reality and the solidity of their foundation. Things can come together fast, but things still fall apart. **B+** —Ryan Krull



COURTESY / FOX THEATER

From SHREK page 9

Other highlights included Donkey's main production number, with Mingo belting out his song, backed by the Three Blind Mice (Lisa Ho, Mara Newbery, Morgan Rose) in slinky, sequined dresses. Pinocchio (Blakeley Slaybaugh) fronted the ensemble production numbers by the motley crew of fairy-tale characters. Most supporting actors played several roles. In fact, the supporting characters, particularly Vaughan, were so good that they nearly stole the show as proved by the

applause at the end.

The appealing, ever-changing sets were textured flats, painted to represent trees with green graphic leaves and dappled with green lighting.

Location changes happened when the flats slid to new spots or new ones descend from the stage fly.

All in all, "Shrek the Musical" is good family entertainment, especially if one cannot get enough of green ogres. **B** —Cate Marquis

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A little Chinese culture

Chinese dance troupe performs at UM- St. Louis

► CAITLIN E. L. MYLES
Staff Writer

A

little Chinese culture was brought to the Touhill Performing Arts Center Saturday, September 18 at 8 p.m. The college of music dance troupe from the China Northeast Normal University traveled from Changchun City in Jilin Province to share classical, modern and folk Chinese dances with St. Louis. An array of color and sound was presented.

Besides being a form of entertainment, each dance was a message to the audience or a lesson to be learned about Chinese culture. The dancers communicated with their bodies as if they had created their own language to tell each separate story. All of the dancers moved across the stage with ease and grace and were very expressive making the emotion they aimed to portray clear to the audience.

"The show was emotional to say the least. The performances were exhilarating and connecting with the audience," Marissa Lewis, senior, art, Webster University, said.

The folk, classical and modern Chinese dances were each performed for different reasons. The folk dances demonstrated the ritu-

als and traditions of various Chinese groups that have been passed down from generation to generation. The classical dances portrayed the artistic culture of the Chinese people and can be recognized for their three parts: form, bearing and technique. The various poses demonstrated form. Each dancer's focus proved bearing and the jumps, flips, twists and spins entwined in each dance showed technique.

"Their form was exquisite. I wish I could dance like that," Janet Brown, said.

The modern dances were more theatrical than the others. They appeared either comedic or dramatic.

Receiving some of the most applause and loudest cheers from the audience, the "Peacock" dance appeared to be well liked. It is a folk dance reflecting the Dai ethnic group in Chinese culture. The dance troupe chose Huaming He to do a solo performance of this dance, which is traditionally performed by one or more men. The dance was meant to imitate a peacock, which in Chinese culture is a symbol of luck and happiness.

"I've seen the 'Peacock' dance performed many times, but I always look forward to seeing it performed again," Pin Zhai, another devoted audience member, said.

The dance troupe's two-act production consisted of 11 dances. During the first act, the dances, "Joyful Dance on Black Soil," "Water Grass," "Friends," "Peacock," "Silver Flower in the Mountain" and "Wushu Kid" were performed. In the second act, the dance group performed "Single Drum Waist Bell," "Court Dancer," "Hua Yao Flower," "Opera and Dance" and "China Red."

The first nine dances went back and forth between group dances and solo dances. Then the dance group completed the night with two group dances. The following night, the dance troupe presented their two-act production at Webster University.

*"Their form was exquisite.
I wish I could dance like
that..."*

-Janet Brown

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Features

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Chancellor Thomas George giving an opening speech at the 19th Annual Founders Dinner in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Saint Louis.

PHOTOS BY NITESH JAIN / THE CURRENT

Founder's Day Dinner

A celebration for those who have made outstanding efforts for the university

► **JEN O'HARA**
Features Editor

On September 16, over 700 people were gathered at a Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis to celebrate those who continue to make the University of Missouri-St. Louis' dreams become realities.

"The founders dinner was started 19 years ago to honor people within UMSL's family, faculty and staff who have been here 25 years or more. Also, those who are receiving the Chancellor's award for excellence and alumni honored with the distinguished alumni award assigned each year," Cindy Vantine, director of university events, said.

Clad in formalwear, the VIPs gathered in the Ritz Carltons' restaurant at 6 p.m. Soon following at 6:30, the

VIP group united with the hundreds of others already waiting in the ballroom foyer.

UM-St. Louis volunteers were placed throughout the hotel to assist guests, all eager for the event themselves. "It looked really cool, I wanted to make new friends and get to know people.

Apparently, one of the vice presidents of Boeing is here. And that's a big deal," Lauren Carmack, freshman, social work, said.

Alumni invited to the event also were excited to recognize distinguished persons.

"I'm invited here to represent MasterCard and I'm also an alum of UMSL. It'll be interesting to see what other alumni have done," Tammy Hawkins, consultant software engineer for MasterCard, said. Hawkins graduated from the univer-

sity in 2005. After a 10-minute introduction, dinner was served. Following dinner, the awards and announcements began. Those honored included those of the university's staff, alumni and donors to the school. The staff members recognized at the dinner have served 25 years at UM-St. Louis. The distinguished alumni recognized this year were Cheryle Dyle-Palmer, chief operating officer of Parents as Teachers in St. Louis; Norman Eaker, chief administrative officer for Edward Jones and Charles Hoffman, retired president and CEO of Covad Communications Group. Also included were Harry Ratliff, vice president and wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch of Clayton, and Don Winter, vice president of flight and systems technologies of Boe-

ing.

Donor recognition included those who have made large contributions to the university. New donors were recognized into the Partners for Greatness program, including Edward Jones, Boeing and Emerson. The students that make up the Dickson String Quartet, who exemplify the type of students the Gateway to Greatness program was designed for, made an appearance after a video presentation of three students and performed to the surprise of several on the back stage of the ballroom.

A noted part of the evening was an announcement made that the Gateway to Greatness program has exceeded its \$1 million goal before the goal date of 2012 and currently stand at over \$105 million.

"The question: do we keep going for two more years or call it a day? This has been a point of considerable discussion. But it [has become clear that] the demand for scholarships [has] never been greater and the dreams and aspirations within this university community far exceed

the original goal. So, we will continue fundraising into 2012, and set a new goal of \$150 million," Martin Leifeld, vice chancellor for advancement, said.

This new goal will allow for more scholarships and improvements on campus.



K. Adams, financial Coordinator at UMSL and Lonnie Tisdale Sr. enjoy at the opening session of the 19th Annual Founders Dinner on September 16.

Do not drive and dial!

Alvin Wolff heads up cell phone ban legislation in Missouri

► **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**
Staff Writer

Roughly one in four auto accidents involve the usage of a cellular phone. Despite this figure, drivers continue to hold long, drawn-out conversations whilst driving. Two obvious questions arise from these facts: why do drivers continue using their phones while driving and what can be done to remedy this situation? “I believe there are eight states right now which have banned all cell phone use while driving and there are a number of others which only allow Bluetooth use by drivers,” Alvin Wolff, attorney at law, Junior and Associates, said. While Missouri has not yet reached this stage in the course of banning cell phone use for drivers, there have been several attempts to implement similar laws through the state legislature.

For instance, there have been a total of six

efforts to limit, if not ban, cell phone use for drivers. Three of these focused specifically on texting. Missouri has managed to pass one piece of legislation banning the act of texting while driving for any drivers under the age of 21. “I suppose the reason for minor-specific driving and texting laws is that minors may not be as familiar or skilled at driving as adults,” Wolff said. “However, with how dexterous kids are today, that may not be the issue. Everybody is distracted from the road if their eyes are on something else though, such as a cell phone, and most people do look at their cell phones while texting.” Students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis had their own comments regarding the concept of using a cell phone whilst driving.

“I use my phone while driving quite frequently. If I felt I was endangering anybody by driving, I wouldn’t do it. I wouldn’t use my phone if it took away from my concen-

tration,” Meghan Gardner, senior, business administration, said.

According to Gardner, the statistics of one in four accidents are not surprising. “There have been several times others using their phones while driving hit my car,” Gardner said. “You have to be able to multitask.” Other students have also experienced accidents due to cell phone use. “I use my phone while driving pretty frequently. I’ve gotten in one car accident due to this, although it was only a rear-end. I stopped using my phone nearly as much after that,” Devan Endejan, freshman, undeclared, said.

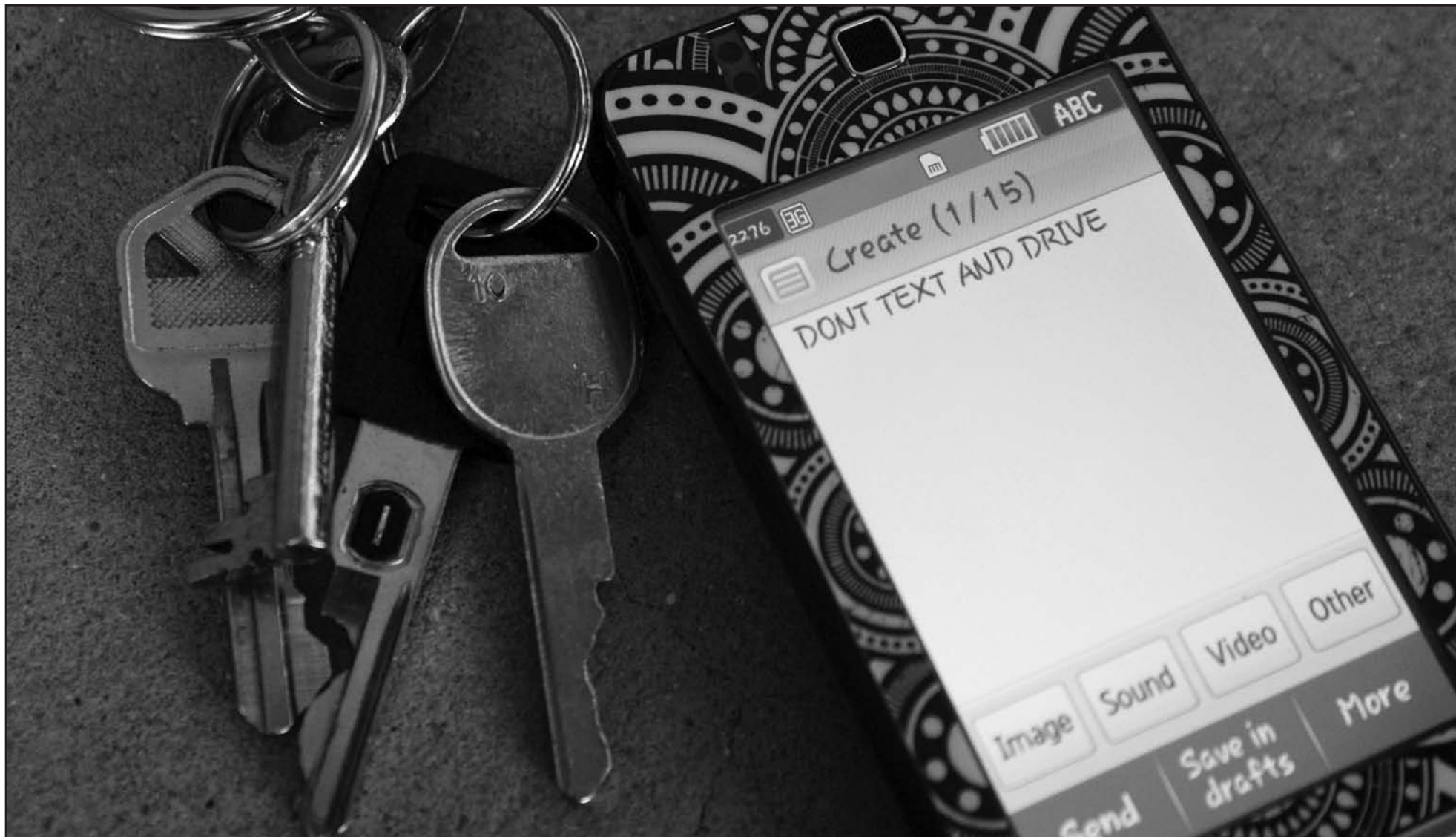
If drivers are going to use their cell phones despite being in the driver’s seat, how is Missouri to create legislation, much less enforce it? Should drivers be taking more responsibility for themselves to designate when cell phone use during driving is or is not safe? “I think that tickets should be given out for us-

ing a phone while driving. If I get caught, I get caught. It is dangerous. That’s why I cut back,” Endejan said.

Gardner’s view upon the subject differed from Endejan’s.

“I don’t really think there’s a way to tell who’s capable and who isn’t. I don’t think age has anything to do with it,” Gardner said.

Whether one uses his or her phone while driving, or believes in the “no phone zone” magnets, which have been gaining prevalence since Oprah’s recent involvement in this campaign, the statistics do not lie. “Don’t Drive and Dial is a Facebook website for people to check out. It’s a group of folks who are committed to not being on their cell phone whilst driving,” Wolff said. Anybody interested in helping the cause may want to start by placing their own phone on silence while driving and then may want to get in touch with a group such as Wolff’s.



Texting while driving contributes to 8-13% of road crashes.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Pedophillic Catholic priests sent to resort in Missouri

The Vianney Renewal Center located in Dittmer, Missouri is home to some of the nation's most dangerous pedophiles. Located 30 miles southwest of St. Louis, the renewal center is supposed to provide intensive counseling and treatment for sex offenders. However, instead of being a center for therapeutic counseling, the Vianney Renewal Center's patients can relax in a Jacuzzi, have a picnic, hike on a trail, surf the web, play basketball, watch satellite television, and enjoy a maid service and a chef to cook their meals. These patients also have unlimited access to pornography. The most shocking thing of all is that these patients aren't regular patients—they are Catholic priests sent to the center for treatment instead of serving jail time.

The center is set up to resemble a relaxing resort, not a treatment center. It is also supervised by other Catholic priest convicted of sexual misconduct with a child. There are no rules banning the access to porn, as a matter of fact, KSDK reported that these Catholic priest regularly receive porn in the mail.

The patients also have unlimited access in their rooms and often remove the center's filtering software, Covenant Eyes, to view pornographic material whenever they want.

The Servants of the Paraclete, an order of Catholic priests, run the Vianney Renewal Center. Some of the priests in treatment are sent there by their Diocese, others are sent by the court. In the state of Missouri, the accessing of pornography by any pedophile is a violation of parole. According to Missouri law, any person that violates their probation or parole will have to serve out the rest of their jail time. However, priests at Vianney do not receive jail time for violating their parole and the priests that are not on parole do not receive any repercussions for accessing pornography.

The Catholic Church has been involved with more sex abuse scandals than any other religion or organization. They also cover up so much abuse, it is a shame that parents are still sending their children to them or using their money to support their efforts. It costs roughly \$3,000 a month to keep a priest in Vianney.

Priests sent there by their Diocese are using donated money from regular people to pay for treatment. This is not right.

It does not help that the Catholic Church is practically above the law when it comes to fair punishment, especially when it involves pedophilia. Vianney is a place for pedophilic priest, but there should not be such a place. The state of Missouri needs to shut Vianney Renewal Center down. The only thing that needs to be renewed are these priests' jail sentences.

Vianney is home to Father Robert Larson who was convicted of molesting alter boys in Kansas. Five of his victims have committed suicide. Father Barry Ryan from New York is also a Vianney resident. He was convicted of repeatedly having sex with a 5-year-old boy.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Sequita Bean, Gene Doyel, Jennifer O'Hara, William Kyle, Michael Frederick, Jennifer Meahan, Zachary James Kraft.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Playing shell games with BP spill oil

A government report released in August concluded that most of the oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill was now gone. After a three-month long gusher, the idea that an estimated 4.9 million barrels of oil had vanished so quickly seemed extremely unlikely. Many scientists and the general public were understandably skeptical.

Now marine scientists have reported finding a thick layer of oil on the seafloor of the Gulf of Mexico, while surveying between the shore and the Deepwater Horizon well. Aboard the research ship Oceanus, researchers from the University of Georgia's Department of Marine Sciences found a very large area with an oily layer, ranging up to about two inches thick. They had not yet even sampled the area nearest the blown well.

The government report released seemed focused on oil on the water's surface - oil washed up on beaches or still floating in the gulf. The report concluded as much as 75 percent of the oil had been collected, evaporated, eaten by microbes or scattered by dispersant. Oil on the seafloor did not seem to enter the picture.

The report seems to ignore the obvious. After all, this was a deep-water seafloor spill, not a tanker spill, where one could reasonably expect most oil to float on the surface.

The oily layer Oceanus researchers found on the seabed was described as "fluffy," apparently a mix

of oil and the mucus abundantly secreted by oil-eating microbes. As the sticky mucus sinks through the water, it collects more oil before settling on the bottom. Underneath the oily layer, the scientists found dead crustaceans, worms and other invertebrates. The oil layer was clearly fresh.

They will need to chemically "fingerprint" the oil found to confirm that it is from the Deepwater Horizon but the sheer size of the deposit leaves few other options as a source. Another research group had also found oil on the seafloor, off the coast of Florida.

It is important to recall that this kind of deepwater oil spill is unprecedented. Oil sinking to the bottom in shallower water near the Gulf shore or in marshlands is potentially devastating to the ecosystem.

But the deep seafloor is little understood and we know little of the role that the deep sea plays in the ecology of oceans.

The disconnect between the official government report and the findings of scientists has led to calls for establishing standards in assessing the impact of the huge oil spill. The United Command, the agency in charge of spill response, has no organized plan for assessing biological damage. Some Marine biologists have expressed frustration about agency control of tissues samples, with limited access to both samples and information.

The joint BP - federal



Cate Marquis

response to the oil disaster never did much to inspire public confidence in their pronouncements. Concerns about the dispersant used surfaced quickly, as well as reports of plumes of oil beneath the surface.

Blocking reporters from photographing dead wildlife, announcing they would have full access and then restricting access around clean-up efforts, all contributed to the appearance that something was being hidden. Reports by marine toxicologist Riki Ott, who had helped with the Exxon Valdez clean-up in Alaska, that BP workers were cleaning up dead wildlife on beaches in a manner inconsistent with autopsies needed to link them to the oil spill were particularly damning.

The impression left was that the oil spill response was more about PR than doing the right thing, and that BP, not government, was in charge. Clearly, both standards and an independent assessment of the oil spill's impact are sorely needed.

Cate Marquis is Associate A&E Editor and a columnist for The Current.

Got an opinion of our opinion?

www.thecurrent-online.com

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Do not let the city define your musical tastes

Adaptation is a word that should be used when talking about the evolution and not when talking about personal music taste. But for the self-declared music police, adaptation is a key element. Adaptation of preferences, adaptation of personal tastes and adaptation to settling for the next best thing. Music is not about adaptation. It has never been and never will be.

Music is about the never ending options that lie before any listener. Walking into any music store, the listener may be instantly drawn towards the death metal section. But that does not mean they will not hit up a section with ska music before they walk out. Just because a listener may prefer one type of music to another does not mean that that one genre of music is the only one they have on their iPod. The music police may be shocked when they realize that most people listen to multiple genres. Ask before you make conclusions next time about someone's music choices.

Music preferences are not something that listeners can just randomly throw aside on a whim. They are something (at least in my shoes) that takes years to build up and properly mold into a personal taste. Every listener goes through phases and these phases should be displayed by their music

choices. At any given point in their musical career, they may not be listening to a song that has impacted them. But that does not mean that they do not like it anymore. To ask someone to stop listening to the band that got them through a rough point in their life just because the band is not coming to play in town is absolutely absurd.

Adapting one's own personal taste to fit that of another person, or even of a city, is absolutely ridiculous as well. If that was the case, everyone in St. Louis would listen to Nelly, Sheryl Crow, Ludo and Chuck Berry. Having an entire city listening to only music that they have fostered and created is simply unrealistic and frankly unfair. Not that the people of the STL should ignore their local bands, but trying to make everyone listen to local music is simply unrealistic.

Settling is not fair in any situation. All listeners should have an option to choose the music that appeals to them. Whether that music is bluegrass, alt rock, rap, hip-hop or techno is entirely up to the listener, not someone trying to tell them what needs to be pouring from their speakers.

Music is about the listener. It has always and will always be about the listener. Without the fans, bands cannot exist. So why any listener



Janaca Scherer

should be forced to listen to a band that does not appeal to their own music preferences in any way, shape or form? That is not fair to any music fan.

Traveling to see a show is not a crime in any way. It should be applauded if anything. Not only does getting out of your own local scene provide feedback on what is or is not lacking about yours, it also opens you up to the local music on another area. If a listener's local scene is not very condoning to ska music, then why is it bad if they head over to a neighboring city once a month?

Do not attack people just because they are willing to follow the music and not what is readily available. They show a true passion for music and not just a casual liking.

Janaca Scherer is a staff writer for The Current.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Halloween has gone to the adults

Yes, indeed, that time of year has come around when children march around in ghoulish costumes, throw classroom cupcake parties and shop for that perfect pumpkin that will produce the most guts. It is that time of year when houses are invaded upon by that miniature chucky dolls or crying baby lions, even dentists get some type of demented satisfaction out of this holiday. While Halloween comes off as that special time of year for children, it is now being taken over by adults, making it the second largest holiday for retail, next to Christmas, specifically for women. And why do you think that is?

The correct answer would be costume shopping, which leads to the main point of this article. One walks into these costume shops looking for the best costume and comes into conflict. Does one want to be a witch for the seventh time in a row or a whore? Decisions! Decisions! That is basically the only option a woman has in a costume shop these days: corseted, low cut costumes that revolve around a theme that does not even exist. Has anyone ever walked into a Halloween shop looking for a costume but walked out

with only a pair of wings. What is going on?

Is there such thing as mail women who strut around in garter belts, knee highs, with a whip hanging around her neck or a sexy Dorothy from Wizard of Oz. Grandmas around the United States are gasping as this subject is discussed. Plus, Toto is not even included with the costume anymore? The wizard of Oz minus the scrappy dog, it is a crime. One wonders how a parent is able to choose an appropriate costume for their 12-year-old daughter who can no longer fit into children's sizes. What should they tell their daughter, "I am so sorry honey, but you are going to have to be a slutty cop for Halloween, now here is your whip and handcuffs. Just have fun." They grow up so fast.

What is this telling our young girls today? That if you want to blend in at that Halloween party, you have to wear as little as possible. This, along with fashion magazines for anorexics, show society what men expect from women. Apparently, they want them to look good and be quiet. Did every woman here that? Drop out of school, focus on your looks from now on, because



Ashley Atkins

that is what counts.

Take a walk through the men's section at the Halloween shop and one does not see a bikini, thong or a whip. There are a bunch of Freddy Krueger masks, bloody facial applications and plastic swords for the Lord of the Ring fanatics. Some girls want to look scary or wear bloody facial applications for Halloween too. Why should they be reduced to the fairy with glitter in her pocket-book?

This is not an article suggesting that women who wear these costumes should be looked down upon, but an article suggesting that they have a choice. For some, maybe a few, Halloween is not about sex, but about festivities, fun and candy.

Ashley Atkins is a staff writer for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at

www.thecurrent-online.com

**Don't think Janaca is right?
Sound off at our website,
www.thecurrent-online.com**

Point

Counterpoint

Should the United States be the negotiator in the middle east peace talks?

Yes: U.S. only country qualified to mediate

During the best of times, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an international fracas. During the worst of times, and it is usually leans towards this end of the spectrum, it is a violent international quagmire. And like most international quagmires, the United States is the only entity remotely qualified to sort it out.

Now America does give quite a lot of cash to Israel for military purposes and many would say this makes it impossible for the U.S. to be an impartial mediator. But this really needs to be treated as a separate issue. The need to support Israel is more important than the need to be a neutral mediator. Israel is the only electoral democracy and the only country with a free press in a region of the world dominated by thug regimes and theocratic despotism. Essentially, Israel's survival in the region is more important than the U.S. remaining neutral. Even if the U.S. did not give a dime to the Jewish state there would still be no shortage of critics wanting America nowhere near the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for a variety of other, mostly ideological reasons.

There is also a commonly

held belief that the United States gives Palestinians no aid whatsoever. This is false. The aid is just not military in nature as it is with Israel. The United States gives millions to the United Nations relief projects in predominantly Palestinian areas. In fact, according to the Palestine Human Development Report, "Palestinians are the largest per capita recipients of international development assistance in the world." About 11 percent of that aid comes from the U.S. But the American government is understandably cautious about what the money going into Palestinian areas is actually being used for. The political party Hamas, classified as terrorist organization by the U.S., Israel and the European Union, holds more seats than any other party in the Palestinian Legislative Council.

America has not been as one sided as its critics claim, anyway. The administrations of Clinton, Obama and both Bush 41 and 43 strongly condemned Israel's policy of building settlements in disputed regions. Granted, the Reagan Administration was decidedly pro-Israel, but that was over 20 years ago and

things have been far fairer since.

Prime Minister Netanyahu recently announced he would continue to build 1,600 new homes in East Jerusalem against the wishes of the Obama administration. That announcement was actually made while Joe Biden was touring Israel, adding insult to insult. So even if Israel and America were once joined at the hip that is certainly not the case today.

Really, what the matter boils down to is: if not the United States, then who? Who, other than America, has the authority and power to even get both sides to come to the table? The United Nations? Well they have a propensity to be slow moving and bogged down by procedure. Russia? China? Both are far too friendly with Iran, whose very own Mahmoud Ahmadinejad both denies the holocaust and calls for Israel's destruction, to be serious contenders.

So yes, the United States is probably a little biased towards Israel, but that does not mean it cannot act in the capacity of an unbiased arbitrator. Let's not let the perfect become the enemy of the qualified.

No: U.S. too close to Israel to be effective

In 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Yugoslav nationalist.

Within weeks, World War I was in full swing. As the story goes, due to the network of allegiances, country after country was dragged into the conflict. The rest, as they say, is history.

If America continues to support Israel, the same thing is bound to happen. Especially with Israel getting in a shouting match with any neighboring country that feels like running its mouth.

As you can tell, the United States' relationship with Israel has a few problems.

For starters, the United States gives Israel millions of dollars a year "over the past decade, almost \$60 billion," according to a Newsweek article. All those bad things that Israel is doing to the Palestinians? We are funding that.

The U.S. supposedly supports a Two States for Two People solution, but when we are only supporting one people, what does that say about us?

Look at it from a Palestinian perspective: Why would you even bother to come to the table for peace talks when looking at you from across the table is not just Israel but the US standing next to them whispering in their ear?

We simply cannot be a bipartisan negotiator when we are so involved.

The odd thing is, apart from the odd trade deal, Israel gives us virtually nothing back in exchange for our money and support. It is merely that the pro-Israel lobby in Washington has a conniption fit every time a President even thinks about Israel negatively, and since it is large and has a vast amount of resources, we are still intertwined with Israel.

On top of that, in addition to its inner turmoil, Israel is also incredibly unstable and volatile in its foreign policy. The bad news is that it is mostly our fault. The United States opened Pandora's box when we bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II.

Now any two-bit prime minister with an itchy red-button-pressing finger can threaten nuclear action against a neighboring nation. Case in point: see Israel and Iran's mutual hatred of one another.

Both countries are on the record of saying they fully intend to use military action against the other if they ever feel that the other violates their sovereignty. On top of that, the president of Israel has gone on record saying that "the president of Iran should remember that Iran

can also be wiped off the map."

As Israel has shown in its merciless persecution of the Palestinians, they are more than willing to use military force, and there is no doubt that if there ever was a great opportunity for Israel to launch a strike at Iran without fear of retaliation, they would do it in a heartbeat.

The U.S. should either bow out of mediating the Israel/Palestine peace talks or drastically sever ties with Israel. It is incredible that the United States does not give more support to the Palestinians.

The main reason for that is that part of the Palestinian government is controlled by Hamas, which America has branded as a terrorist organization.

While this is certainly true, we are still funding the people who had the audacity to call the recent military action in Gaza a "war." Hey Israel, a "war" where 14 of your soldiers die and 14,000 Palestinians perish is not war: it is genocide.

The fact remains: the United States has too close of ties to Israel to be an effective mediator for peace. If the U.S. agreed to take a backseat to say, the United Nations, perhaps something would actually get done.

What do you think?
Let us know at thecurrent-online.com.

Letters to the Editor:

The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. The Current edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number, and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

In response to issue 1321

I appreciated greatly the article by Editor-in-Chief Sequita Bean titled "Non-discrimination resolution proposed by SGA." But I find myself very saddened by what was reported. "29 abstained" from a major vote on basic non-discrimination issues. 29 well educated students who are seeking to be leaders in our state, nation, and world "abstained." When asked do you support non-discrimina-

tion in attendance at events funded by your students fees, 29 student leaders ABSTAINED. Student organizations who want to actively discriminate do not have to take the [money]. Period. Actually, I thought all student organizations at a public university (we are not MO Bap) could not discriminate against other students as part of their application to be a recognized student organi-

zation. I guess I was just confused about the role of public universities in our society. Very sad.

Dr. Mark Pope
Professor and Chair
Division of Counseling and
Family Therapy
College of Education
University of Missouri -
Saint Louis

In response to issue 1315

I agree wholeheartedly with the Editorial from the new Editor in Chief, Ms. Bean about the crime and second terrible assault on campus. The administration at UMSL needs to step it up. I was on campus July 14 in the evening. I am involved in the UMSL Alumni Association so I am on campus for meetings occasionally and I use the library frequently. On that night my car broke down on the South Campus. I flagged down the UMSL shuttle bus and asked the driver to call the campus po-

lice to which he replied that he did not have any kind of radio or walkie talkie. He then informed me I could just walk to the nearest building and find a phone. Then he went on his way. A shuttle driver would be in a good position while making rounds to possibly see something. It is not a good idea for the shuttle drivers to not have some kind of radio or walkie talkie. How are they supposed to call for help if they see something? A short while later I saw an UMSL police officer driving by so I

tried to signal him. He was completely oblivious to a car broken down on the side of the road and me there but he busy was chatting on a cell phone. It is not going to help UMSL if these crime reports continue to happen. We do not want to get a reputation that this campus is not safe. Security measures need to be stepped up ladies and gentlemen. Congratulations, Ms. Bean on your new position at The Current!

Michelle L. McMurray
Current Editor 1992-93

The Current
thecurrent-online.com

The Current IS LOOKING FOR A MANAGING EDITOR

- Recruits and helps in retaining staff
- Is responsible for enforcing all newspaper policies with personal
- Is main human resources contact for all paid staff
- Assumes control of newspaper operations in absence of Editor-in-Chief

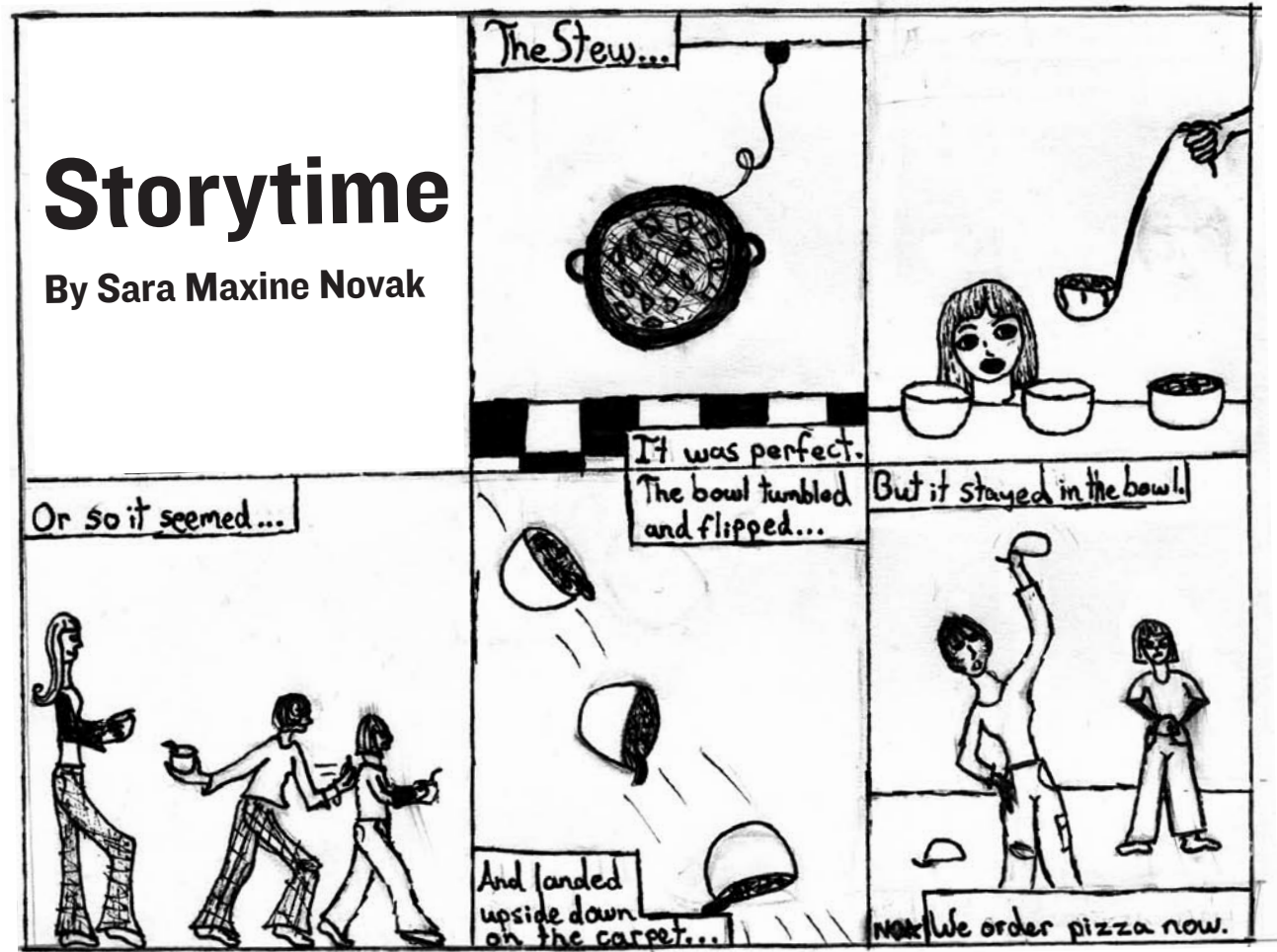
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Job descriptions and how to apply at

www.thecurrent-online.com/about-us/employment

Comics

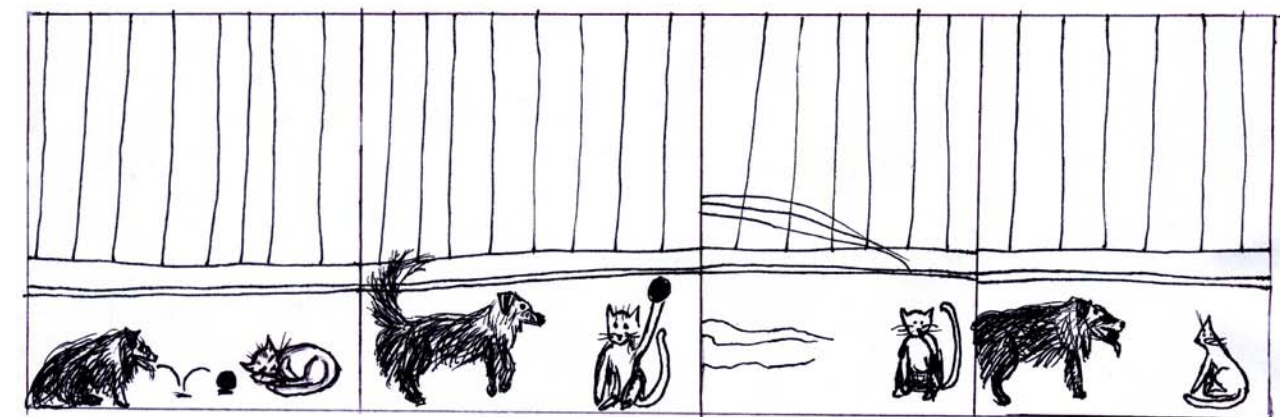
Max and Lobo by Gail Fike



They teach that? by Sam Kayser



Dave and Nike by Grace Searle



CURRENT CROSSWORD

HEART HEALTH

1

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12

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Across:

1. If your systolic blood levels are higher than 140- you have this
3. soft, fat-like, waxy substance found in the bloodstream and in all your body's cells.
8. known as 'good' cholesterol because high levels of this seem to protect against heart attack.
9. a genetic variation of LDL (bad) cholesterol
10. to have a healthy heart- you should avoid these foods
12. disorder of the regular rhythmic beating of the heart

Down:

2. this bad habit will raise your chances of heart disease
4. this type of cholesterol can slowly build up in the inner walls of the arteries that feed the heart and brain
5. chronic life long diabetes
6. a form of fat made in the body
7. most common form of diabetes
8. this happens when a sudden harsh pain is felt on the left side of the chest
11. a disease where the body does not produce enough insulin
13. a great way to strengthen your heart- sports, running...

CURRENT WORDSEARCH

SOLAR SYSTEM

C A H K B Y C J S W S P T R L A E V P Q
S V Z E K J O O H D C O R O N A N O O M
Y O Z Z P J Y V M N I J U U S T W K Y Z
S X W P D R S U N E V O E A R V N K W R
T M J F U Y C E S A T U R N G A H P I O
E X U C P N G W N N X H J O E M N G D E
M R R G X D I O R E T S A U E P N U U T
O E A S E S Q O E T P S S L P T U S S E
M N M L R N C T A Y C K U S L I E E D M
I J T A O K S U R N A P O R U E T M R A
Z O M M Y S G H T E U B U Z H E Y E S G
R C H A R O N C H L O M N D N W U U R A
P Q U S O M I E D H F E I U G F N C N N
L A O W G K R V P G E W T R G S F B A Y
A H A M O V G X Y C C P S W P C H J T M
N G O T U L P S G K E H T O Z E A Q I E
E U D O S H G S U N T G T J G R Q T T D
T M C A L L I S T O D S L I Q E Q J A E
K G F U C W K Y Y Q C J M D P S Y X A B
M V F T Y S A T E L L I T E K L T X N F

• ASTEROID
• CHARON
• DEIMOS
• GANYMEDE
• MARS
• METEORIDS
• PHOBOS
• RINGS
• SATURN
• SUNSPOT
• URANUS
• CALLISTO
• COMET
• EARTH
• HALLEY
• MERCURY
• MOON
• PLANET
• ROCKY
• SOLAR
• SYSTEM
• VENUS
• CERES
• CORONA
• EUROPA
• JUPITER
• METEOR
• NEPTUNE
• PLUTO
• SATELLITE
• SUN
• TITAN

CURRENT HOROSCOPES by Zachary Schwartz

ARIES

(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

October will be a great month for romance, especially with other Taurus' and all fish. Trust your instincts this week, as they will serve you well. Plus, your grandma is a robot.

LIBRA

(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Did you know that Aroldis Chapman recently threw the fastest pitch ever recorded at 105 mph on September 25? It has nothing to do with your horoscope, but yeah.

TAURUS

(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Tell your boyfriend to stop being so mean to his sister. Her job is really stressful right now. Plus, you forgot to feed the dog, and you need to call your mom.

SCORPIO

(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

This week will be a great week for you. Make sure not to read a whole lot. That never leads to anything good. Except for this, of course.

GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Some bad things might happen sometime in the future. But maybe not. Eventually some good things might happen too. But maybe not.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You'll probably enjoy at least one meal this week. Try something new, like lobster. You never have, and you're always talking about how you want to try it.

CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

The next few moments of your life will be wasted. In fact, you should stop reading now, you'll get nothing out of this. Why are you still reading?

CAPRICORN

(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Save your money. I mean, really. We're in a recession. That's all. Not as exciting as you'd hoped, I'm sure, but it's good, sound financial advice.

LEO

(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

You left the coffee pot on at home. Or did you? Oh man, you can't remember. Think hard. Yup, I'm pretty sure you left the coffee pot on.

AQUARIUS

(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Sink or swim? You decide this week. That is, if you go swimming. I can't help you with that. If you don't know how to swim, get lessons or something. I don't know everything.

VIRGO

(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

The universe is over thirteen billion years old. The oldest known star is 13.2 billion years old, and is .. err .. oh, *astrology*. My bad.

PISCES

(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Listen to the new Kanye West. It's really good. I know he's kind of a jerk, but he's an artist. Plus, Taylor Swift got what she deserved.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrentads@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions.



Students watch "How to Train Your Dragon" Friday during a movie night in Oak Hall.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Monday, Sept. 27

Instructional Computing Courses

Instructional Computing labs are hosting a one-hour lab on several computing topics including Microsoft Office and Adobe. For more info or to sign up, visit umsl.edu/training.

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Noon at the Nosh

From 12 noon to 1 p.m., the Catholic Newman Center will be meeting with students in The Nosh. Free cookies will be provided. For more info, contact Rachelle Simon at 314-385-3455.

Friday, Oct. 1

The Basics of Writing a Business Plan

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., a workshop focusing on putting together effective business plans for lenders will be held in the J.C. Penney Conference Center.. For more info, contact Alan Hauff at 314-516-6121.

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Interest in Foreign Language

From 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., students interested in studying foreign language are invited to speak with other students and faculty in Clark 527. Free coffee and snacks provided. For more info, contact Andrew Bennett at 516-6860.

Thursday, Sept. 30

Communicating Effectively in College

From 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. in 225 MSC, the Center for Student Success is holding a seminar designed to improve students' communication skills with regard to faculty and classmates in college. For more info, contact Antionette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

Saturday, Oct. 2

MADCO 34th Season Opener

From 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., MADCO begins its 34th dance season in Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theatre. For special student ticket pricing visit touhill.org/student-tix. For more info, contact the Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.